

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1           1. (currently amended) A strapping connection for a  
2 pair of longitudinally extending and transversely overlapping strap  
3 ends, the connection comprising:

4           a pair of longitudinally extending and interengaging hook  
5 formations formed as transversely pushed-out regions of the strap  
6 ends and permitting limited movement of the strap ends in one  
7 longitudinal direction; and

8           ~~transversely interengaging lock formations~~  
9 complementarily conical dimples fitting transversely snugly  
10 together, prohibiting relative longitudinal movement of the strap  
11 ends, and formed in the pair of hook formations.

1           2. (currently amended) The strapping connection defined  
2 in claim 1, further comprising

3           a second pair of longitudinally extending and  
4 interengaging end hook formations spaced longitudinally from the  
5 first-mentioned pair, formed as transversely pushed-out regions of  
6 the strap ends, permitting limited movement of the strap ends in  
7 one longitudinal direction, and free of the ~~lock formations~~ conical  
8 dimples.

3 - 5. (canceled)

1           6. (currently amended) The strapping connection defined  
2 in claim 1 wherein the ~~lock-formations~~ conical dimples pierce  
3 completely through one of the strap ends.

1           7. (currently amended) The strapping connection defined  
2 in claim 1 wherein each hook formation has an end portion defined  
3 between a pair of closely spaced and longitudinally extending cuts,  
4 another end portion spaced longitudinally from the one end portion  
5 and defined between a pair of widely spaced and longitudinally  
6 extending cuts, and an intermediate portion between the end  
7 portions and formed between a pair of angled cuts each connecting a  
8 respective one of the closely spaced cuts with a respective one of  
9 the widely spaced cuts.

1           8. (currently amended) The strapping connection defined  
2 in claim 7 wherein the ~~lock-formations~~ conical dimples are formed  
3 between the widely spaced cuts.

1           9. (currently amended) The strapping connection defined  
2 in claim 1 wherein the ~~lock-formations~~ conical dimples project  
3 transversely by a distance equal at least to a thickness of the  
4 strap ends.

10 - 16 (withdrawn)